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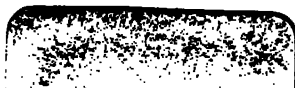
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JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT, No. 7.

THOMAS POLE, M.D.

WRITTEN BY

EDMUND TOLSON WEDMORE

FOR THE

FRIENDS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WITH NOTES BY

NORMAN PENNEY.

Illustrated by

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Introductory Note.

THOMAS POLE, M.D.

A BRIEF notice of Thomas Pole, M.D., in *The Friends' Monthly Magazine* for November, 1829, concludes as follows:

"He was greatly respected, more especially for his active and persevering benevolence. He came forth in the ministry first in his twentieth year, and probably at the time of his death was one of the ministers of longest standing in our Society."

Nearly eighty years have passed since his death, but personal recollections of some in his profession and of other individuals—given me about seventeen years ago, when I was preparing an article on Dr. Pole for the *Dictionary of National Biography*—and his voluminous journals and other MSS. clearly exhibit his strenuous life, and enable me to present a sketch of his career with more detail than was possible in the *Dictionary* article. At the same time the records preserved are far from being complete and this will explain some obvious omissions. I trust therefore that any judgment on the portrayal of his life will be tempered with lenity.

Whilst conscious that the work might have been in far abler hands, I have, as his great-grandson, gladly accepted the privilege of contributing an account of one who has been held in revered memory. In his zeal on behalf of Adult Schools, and in other directions, he was undoubtedly far ahead of his generation.

Wherever practicable, I have used his own words to tell the tale, though I have condensed his narrative. But records of many illuminating thoughts and work throwing further light on his life and character have been excluded for want of space. The story will, I believe, be fresh to most readers.

E. T. W.

Bristol, May 1908.

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Thomas Pole. M.D.

His Ancestry.

BATTLEHAY was a noted house for the entertainment of Friends in the early period of the Society. The road leading to it was known as Quakers' Road, and it was so written up on the sign-post directing thereto. It is situated in the parish of Wiveliscombe, Somerset; its prospect agreeably undulating; the soil warm and fertile.

Here Thomas Pole's great-grandparents, Edward and Mary Pole, lived, having settled upon the Battlehay estate and built the house about 1665, shewn in the drawing (No. 18). It seems most probable that they migrated from Wales. His grandfather, Edward Pole, was born at Battlehay in 1670, and he appears to have been convinced early of Friends' principles. He married Grace Jones, one of a high church Welsh family, in the Friends' Meeting House, Wellington, Somerset, in 1702, she herself having been convinced by the preaching of William Penn in the sixteenth year of her age, and in consequence was turned out of her father's family and disinherited.

Edward Pole was prosecuted in the Exchequer for Tythes in 1703 and at other times, for various sums, by Parsons Collins and Burton, vicars of the parish. He was "distrained of valuable fat beasts." Nearly thirty years before, his father with four other Friends were fined £38 for being at a meeting at Nathaniel Atwood's of Wiveliscombe.

The widow, Grace Pole, and her eldest son, Edward, were prosecuted for Tythes in 1734, and she was to have been imprisoned on that account. They were settling their domestic affairs accordingly, when Thomas Story, coming

to the house in company with other Friends, interfered on her behalf with the Justice and was the means of her acquittance. Edward (1703-1762) continued to live at Battlehay after the death of his mother in 1744. He was never married, but he was given to much hospitality, and devoted himself to the service of Friends. His brother John was Dr. Pole's father, his brother Thomas married and removed to Milverton (drawing No. 19).

Friends living in Wiveliscombe and Milverton at that time possessed a Meeting House in common, built on an intermediate spot on the country hillside, now and for more than a hundred years past called the "Old Meeting House." (See drawing No. 24). Subsequently one was built in Milverton town, lying well back from the road, and of this too we give Dr. Pole's drawing (No. 25) dated 1780.

His Father.

John Pole, his father, (1705-1755), was born at Battlehay. He was bound apprentice to Daniel Smith, a tailor of Wellington, served his time faithfully, and then went into business for himself. This business did not answer, and he became involved and emigrated to America before he could discharge his obligations. But he was determined to retrieve his former good character, and set to work most industriously. Circumstances, however, were adverse, and some ill-tempered creditors threw him into gaol. Here he worked diligently at his trade, paid off the debts, and obtained his liberty. His neighbours now wishing to show their regard, favoured him, and he opened a business in Burlington, New Jersey. As his circumstances improved he was again in touch with relatives who had likewise settled in the same province. He now sought to discharge his debts in England, and remitted money sufficient for the purpose to his brother, Thomas Pole, of Milverton, who took great pains to find the creditors and paid them all in full.

John Pole then paid his addresses to Rachel Smith, daughter of Richard and Ann Smith, of Burlington, with a view to marriage. But the course of true love was not smooth, for Richard Smith opposed the union. Friends remonstrated with him on the matter, and, after repeated interviews, promoted the marriage, finding that John Pole's proposals were unacceptable to Richard Smith only on account of his position being unequal to his own. The certificate of removal came from England, and the union was duly accomplished. Later they removed to Philadelphia, and John Pole took voyages to Boston and the West Indies, acquiring a knowledge of mercantile business, which he forthwith entered into.

"Richard Smith now recognising that his daughter had a good husband," says Thomas Pole, "came to Philadelphia with a present, which my father, glad as he would have been to receive it when he was married, now made over to his wife. He purchased a small estate on the banks of the river Schuylkill, and improved it, spending a sum in excess of the gift in building a dwelling house, laying out the grounds and cutting a vista through the wood of hickory trees, thus opening to view a varied and beautiful landscape with crystal stream in the foreground. This my mother enjoyed to the day of her death.

"About five years before I was born, my father came to England, settled an agency there and extended his business. Whilst in England, being fond of shooting, he took out his gun, accompanied by a servant, and shot a hare in the parish of Buckland, Somerset. For this Justice Proctor levied upon him a fine of £15, viz: £5 for shooting the hare, £5 for carrying his gun, and £5 for his servant carrying the same gun, they being deemed by the law unqualified persons.

"From all accounts my father was very active, alert in mind, and of friendly disposition. He increased in religious experience as life advanced. He died before my remembrance. Of nine children, four survived him: Anna,

Edward, Ann and Thomas. We lost our mother not long after, so the care of the family devolved on our guardians, William Callendar and Edward Catherall."

Himself.

Thomas Pole was born on the 18th of October, 1758, in Philadelphia. He was the youngest child of John and Rachel Pole. Bereft of his father when little more than one year old, he was able to recall something of his mother's tender and religious care, for she lived till he was about six; and the records he has left also refer to his indebtedness to his guardians. Anna too, his elder sister, did her part towards the nurture of the younger children. His brother was sent early to England under the care of the uncles in Somersetshire, and the three others lived with William Callendar, who says that Thomas had a very active disposition. When Anna married James Bringhurst, Ann went to live with her and Thomas was placed with Joseph Noble. At this time, T. Griffiths, a friend of Thomas Pole's, of Milverton, went to America, and being asked to interest himself in the family and satisfy their uncle as to their welfare, wrote thus from Philadelphia: "I both saw and enquired particularly concerning thy nephew, Tommy Pole, a young lad twelve years of age, bearing a good character, and remarkably inclined to be doing one nick-nack or other in wood—as little boxes, &c., and as far as I understand minds his learning. He lives at present with Joseph Noble, who speaks well of him and says when he gets a little money he is not apt to squander it. He told me himself that he would like to learn to be a carpenter and joiner. I went to see the two sisters, and I hear nothing but well concerning them."

But later, by association with wicked schoolfellows, Thomas was corrupted and gave way to an evil turn of mind; he "yielded to sinful gratifications." Happily, the voice of conscience pleaded and he was awakened to a

sense of the depths to which he had slipped. For some time "a fearful battle raged within" him, and he speaks of a course of iniquity mercifully cut short, and says, "I was early plucked as a brand out of the fire."

It was in the nineteenth year of his age that he experienced this change, and then had to pass through the darkness of Atheism before emerging into the light of God's Spirit. His conflicts humbled him, and after long wrestling a degree of faith was kindled within him, and at last he rejoices: "Then did the Lord break forth in His power, bursting open the prison doors, proclaiming a glorious deliverance to my captive soul. May all the faculties of my soul bow in reverent thankfulness for this mercy, and may my life be devoted to the service of my Redeemer."

Before he was twenty he appeared in the ministry. In the prosecution of this important service his journals record his spiritual trials at this time as at later times throughout his life. The presence of former evil-disposed associates in the meeting to which he then belonged, their taunts at his religious ardour, the aloofness of fellow apprentices in the tanning industry, added to his difficulties, and were as snares set for him amidst new temptations. "But the loving-kindness of the Lord," he says, "encompassed me, and I was brought to walk humbly and to seek after Truth."

He leaves America.

Thomas Pole left Burlington to visit his relations in England in 1775, being recommended to Bristol Meeting in a certificate signed by nearly forty Friends. He was then in his twenty-second year. In fulfilling this design and in visiting Friends and their meetings, within the two or three years following he travelled in England and Wales 6642 miles, partly on foot and partly by coach, but chiefly on horseback.

Setting sail down the Delaware on April 30th, he

arrived off Dover on June 15th. His account of the voyage describes the vicissitudes of crossing the Atlantic in a sailing vessel of those times, when a propitious or unfavourable wind made all the difference. For the passage he paid ten guineas and agreed to find his own provisions. His stock of sea stores was drawn upon for nearly seven weeks, as *The Two Friends*, a brig, was driven far out of her course on many days. On some days she sailed only a knot an hour, on others she sped seven knots before the breeze, whilst on some occasions she was tossed, buffeted, and struck by the seas, till the water poured into the cabin reserved for the ladies of their party. He was fortunate in his companions, the cabin party, numbering eight, included Jabez Fisher, George Logan and Bartholomew Wistar, besides Mary Leaver and Elizabeth Robinson, who were returning to England from a ministerial visit.

In England.

The Lizard was sighted on June 9th, and they were accosted by a smuggling sloop demanding rum—then not an uncommon occurrence. At Dover, Thomas Pole soon found himself among friends, for he says, "About 4 o'clock (a.m.) Richard Baker had come off with the pilot to us and invited us to his house, where we breakfasted and lodged. We attended the mid-week meeting, and called on Friends." The day following his arrival he reached London by coach, where in the inn yard he was met by William Dillwyn, who had been his neighbour in America. A month later he was in Bristol, and was taken for an early morning's walk by his relatives to "the village of Jacob's Wells."*

In his travels it is impossible, in the space at our disposal, to go with him in detail, although his journals set forth the events of every day. He favoured the West of England and Midland Counties most because his relations lived in these localities, but he made himself acquainted

* Now a populous district of Bristol, overlooking the harbour.

with people and places as far north as Kendal, east as Yarmouth, and south as Land's End. His travelling map and charts show the routes taken and distances covered day by day. We may glance at some features illustrative of his life at that time and of those amongst whom he went.

He had resided in the neighbourhood of Bristol with Edward and Sally Young only a few weeks when we find him engaged in bringing into play that personal influence which often brought forth good in the lives of those he dealt with: his benevolent bent of mind soon made itself felt. Then, naturally, habits and customs in a new country interest him, such as his opportunity of riding double with a fair relative, the roughness of roads, finding himself in the midst of a country town mop or hiring fair, the candidates for employment wearing emblems of their craft; the pursuit of stocking knitting by men, coal carriers and tram drivers as they walk by their horses; the singing of men, women and children at work in a silk mill and the beginning of weaving machinery; the close quarters of fellow travellers of whatever sort in a coach; the ringing of bells in a steeple night and day and firing of guns to celebrate local events when feeling ran high; the good or rough accommodation at inns; and the cordial hospitality offered him by Friends, previously strangers, to wit, John Hoyland of Sheffield, John Elam of Leeds, William and Esther Tuke of York, John Storer of Nottingham, Sampson Lloyd, Junr., of Birmingham, and others too numerous to name, whose kindness was appreciated. Although not on a religious visit to England, he had a part in the ministry of our Society both public and private, and united in the home life of a great variety of persons.

Adopts his Profession.

Thomas Pole's move to England proved permanent, for he never again crossed the Atlantic. He had left his

affairs in the hands of a relative, and owing to the troubles caused by the War of Independence, he had much cause for anxiety. He received marked sympathy from Thomas Shillitoe, who in a letter at this time enters into the difficulties of changing one's occupation and of the peace of mind in eating bread earned by one's own labour, and ends thus, "I never opened my mind so freely to any before."

Among the people who had favourably impressed him in his travels was Joseph Rickman, surgeon and apothecary, of Maidenhead; and having concluded to devote himself to medicine and desiring to settle down to its study, he sought to be apprenticed to this Friend. Indentures (dated September 5th, 1777) were agreed upon and premium paid entitling him to learn the mysteries of the profession, and besides board and lodging to be furnished with a horse when needs be. The correspondence proclaims that Thomas Pole feels in his right place with Joseph Rickman, though his occupation is so different from that to which he had been brought up (the trade of tanning), for he is "stepping along" with satisfaction and peace of mind. He remained at Maidenhead two years and five months. He also studied at Reading. In 1780 he removed to Falmouth on becoming assistant surgeon and apothecary to Dr. Joseph Fox, who was appointed to take care of the sick and wounded seamen in the King's Service. This was to be followed by Hospital experience in London, after which he commenced work on his own account, as we shall see.

At Falmouth.

The wounded in the King's Service were brought into the port of Falmouth, and in this time of war many came. "At one time," says Thomas Pole, "we had between two and three hundred patients landed and put under our care. Capital operations were frequent and we had an instructive variety of cases. Dr. Fox was likewise appointed by the

Post Office surgeon to the men belonging to the Packets whilst in the harbour, and these numbering many hundreds, proved another plentiful source of practice. He also had most of the Privateers' men and most of the private practice in the town. Three of us were employed in visiting and prescribing, and we were obliged to apply ourselves very assiduously to get through the work. In the pharmaceutical department we had to employ occasionally other assistants. The sufferings of the men from recent engagements, with flesh lacerated from cutlass wounds, balls and splinters of wood, excited our deep sympathy."

Thomas Pole's colleagues helped him in his concern to attend meetings whenever possible, and he was led to exercise his ministry more at this period than heretofore, often addressing the young, towards whom, remembering his own experience, he was particularly drawn.

Whilst in Cornwall he travelled 900 miles, mostly on horseback, more than once accompanying Friends—John Townsend of London, and Mary Ridgway and Jane Watson from Ireland—on religious service. He sums up his experience thus: "The longer I live and wherever I live the more I see the necessity of adhering to the dictates of Divine Wisdom and bringing all our deeds and fruits to the test of this most sure Touchstone."

Associations.

Before passing on from these periods of training and work, allusion should be made to the value of association with Joseph and Sarah Rickman, both professional and personal. Their friendship was long and attached. In a letter to Robert Dudley, Clonmel, Thomas Pole says, "Our hearts are knit together as the hearts of David and Jonathan, and the love wherewith we are filled is as the ointment poured upon the head of Aaron, which ran down to the nethermost skirts of his garments," and this is illustrated by Joseph Rickman's arrival at midnight at Cirencester,

where his friend had been taken ill, having come 64 miles, fearing that Thomas Pole had not fully disclosed his case in his letters, and having to return to Maidenhead after only a few hours' stay. No wonder the diaries speak of him with affection.

In the course of the first two years' travels in England Thomas Pole had become acquainted with a great many Friends. His correspondence with many of these was carried on with a freedom and candour unusual in so young a man, both to men and women, and was reciprocated. When a duty was apprehended, especially if it might be helpful to someone else, Thomas Pole put aside convention, as well as other obstacles, to act on the impulse. In one case he retired from company to communicate by letter to a friend "with a freedom the world may censure yet I hope truth approves." In another, when the day's work showed how careful he needs be of his time, he is "willing to dedicate some of it" to another friend to whom he thereupon writes.

William Dilworth, of Lancaster, received in 1777 a weighty letter, "in ardent travail for the youth among you," which he was free to show to certain families in Lancaster. He shows it to a confidant at Kendal, and they then ask that it may be re-addressed to Friends in Lancaster, Settle and Kendal. This being beyond the writer's intention, the question is submitted to the judgment of his friends, to whom messages are sent, as to Isaac Wilson, Thomas Crewdson, John Wakefield and George Braithwaite, and to his kind guide, Richard Marriott, Junior, who had entertained him.

When the subject of marriage first took hold of his mind is not apparent, but in these early days he counselled his correspondents thereon for their own good. As for himself, of all the places he visited, and much at home as he felt in many houses, towards no one of them does he seem to gravitate more naturally than to William and Mary Barrett's, in Cheltenham; and no correspondence—volu-

minous as it was—does he cultivate with so much personal pleasure as that with Martha and Elizabeth Barrett, daughters of William Barrett. Thomas Pole's interest in Elizabeth and her environment becomes evident; he is ever on guard against any compromising position, till some years later, when he sees his way. Meanwhile, their intercourse was friendly.

One is inclined to wonder how he found time for his work, correspondence, travels and ministry, till reminded of his inveterate industry and methodical habits, which were a by-word in his most intimate circles.

A Typical Excursion.

Here is a brief account of an excursion in the summer of 1778:—

“8th mo. 12th.—Set off (from Maidenhead) to visit my relations and friends in Milverton, Bristol, Cirencester, &c. Rode through Reading to Basingstoke, baited on the way, breakfasted with Henry Portsmouth, a physician, and called on Friends there. Proceeded to Whitechurch, twelve miles further, called on Edmund Portsmouth, surgeon (brother to Henry Portsmouth), and on Thomas Benwell, surgeon, both Public Friends. Rode on to Andover, seven miles, in a chaise with Francis Righley (partner to Edmund Portsmouth). This was a relief, and my horse ran beside the chaise; then on horseback to Salisbury, eighteen miles, baited once, called on several Friends, and lodged at Thomas Sturge's.—66 miles this day.

“13th.—Proceeded to Shaftesbury, twenty miles, thence to Yeovil, twenty-two, after dining at Jonah Thompson's between those places. Stayed a little with John Hebbard at Yeovil, and went with his sister to Eleanor Barrett's, a notable Methodist, with whom I had a remarkable interview on a previous occasion, where we drank tea and sat together. In the evening rode to Montacute, four miles, lodged at my cousin's, Samuel Isaacs.—46 miles this day.

"14th.—Proceeded early to Ilminster, ten miles, breakfasted there at John Mullett's, rode through Taunton, short stop there, and so on to Milverton, arriving about 1 p.m.—17 miles more; welcomed by my relations.—27 miles to-day.

"21st.—(After sundry shorter trips in Somerset.) Set off early for the Quarterly Meeting at Campdon, for the County of Gloster. Called at Taunton to see my friends, Joseph Gifford and Thomas Melhuish, reached Bridgwater about 10, dined, spent some hours with my esteemed friend, Joseph Ball, junr. In the afternoon rode to Cross, baited, thence to Yatton, and lodged with my kind hospitable friend, Ann Gregory.

"22nd.—Visited my friends, Lydia Harwood and John Benwell (Thomas Benwell's brother), a schoolmaster and Public Friend, at Yatton. Rode to Bristol, lodged at my cousin, Edward Young's. 23rd, 1st day.—Breakfasted at John Till Adams' and supt at Samuel Dyer's. At the Friars Meeting, morning, afternoon and evening. Thomas Rutter appeared in testimony and supplication. 24th.—Rode through Newport to Gloster, thence to Cheltenham, 44 miles, and lodged as usual at William Barrett's. 25th.—Rode to Campdon with Elizabeth Barrett, and a man as guide, the road being exceedingly intricate and difficult for a stranger. At Campdon, refreshment at Jeffery Bevington's, and walked about a mile to the meeting. Henry Wilkins, Joseph Davies, my aunt Ann Young, another and myself appeared in testimony. Meeting for discipline held till near six; dined at Jeffery Bevington's, lodged at James Bevington's. 26th.—Returned with Elizabeth Barrett to Cheltenham and lodged at her father's" (drawing No. 20).

Many other engagements occupied him in Glostershire, and on his return journey.

Sussex and Hants.

In November 1778, when Thomas Pole was 25, he says, "I concluded it requisite to lay before Friends at our

Monthly Meeting at Reading a concern that had rested on my mind for some months to visit the Quarterly Meeting of Sussex and places near."

A certificate was given him for this visit. He set out in about a fortnight, and says, "I was ready to think my concern was no more than sparks of my own kindling, till a lively trust was raised within me and my mind seemed in some seasons of retirement as it were to dwell amongst the people in those parts to which it was drawn by the power of gospel love."

This journey occupied three weeks. He had much service in large and small meetings, paid family visits, and was warmly received, entertained and helped on his way by one and another. He says, "I was enabled to speak closely to the people. Difficult it was to rouse those who had long refused to hearken to the still small voice within them, and yet more arduous to deal plainly in religious opportunities in families. In public meetings I spoke to the unfaithful; I met with various states: I was often united to the bowed and tender hearted, and I hope encouraged the sincere in heart, comforted the mourner, and strengthened them who seemed ready to faint by the way."

In the following spring Thomas Pole accompanied William Rathbone to several places, and towards the summer he paid a visit to towns in Hants, which he had not been able to take earlier, and had an unusual experience in Portsmouth, where there were only two women Friends. He says, "One of these women, living with an uncle, entertained me; my companions—James Hack, Richard Dally, and Joseph and James Pollard—lodged at an inn. We went to the Friends' Meeting House, a very trying time, only three present besides ourselves. When I was speaking a considerable number came in, and I was concerned to labour much with them. The company was mixed; some were of the lowest classes, and there did not seem a light countenance amongst them. We were solicited for another opportunity

and were invited to some of their houses. So I stayed another day, and we had a fuller meeting than the previous one. . . . Thence to Dorking with Thomas Carrington, when many present at the meeting were broken into tears even before anything was expressed as well as under the testimonies delivered."

Later in the year (with a certificate) he visited many places in Hants, and was much helped by friends in his varied services. At Poole, on a Sunday, Friends attended meeting in the morning, with some others in the afternoon, and in the evening the principal inhabitants of the town came, numbering about 400. He writes, "In this place reside the gayest assembly of Friends that I ever saw. Almost every mark of simplicity lost in the general inundation of luxury and splendour. I was much concerned. Lodged at Moses Neave's."

On a return visit to Portsmouth he held a crowded meeting, "many present of rank and distinction"; and he spent some time at Dr. Millard's. Then they crossed to the Isle of Wight, where they had good service. All this time he carried on active correspondence with Friends in America and in England—full of teaching; for he was imbued as strongly with the spirit of teaching as with that of preaching.

In recounting his experiences to Sally Young, Lewin's Mead, Bristol, he recalls the pleasure he always derived from his friend, William Cookworthy, who had just then paid a visit to Bristol, a man in whom was blended to a remarkable degree the Christian and Philosopher.*

In London.

In 1781 Thomas Pole settled in London, in the practice of medicine and surgery, at 45 Cannon Street. His certifi-

* The memorial of William Cookworthy quoted in Theodore Compton's book is the work of an enlightened and broad minded man. It was written I believe by Thomas Pole, as were the memorials of Anna Bringhurst, Ann Leaver, Sarah Fox (*née* Champion), Mary Lockey, and many more.

cate in respect to the study and practical work of midwifery is dated the following year, and signed by David Orme and William Lowder; and the same year he was admitted to the Company of Surgeons of London, the document being signed by Richard Grindall, five Examiners and the Registrar. In 1789 he was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society—"desirous of advancing the interests of the Society by associating to themselves men of distinguished eminence,"—the certificate with the Corporation's seal being signed at Philadelphia by Benjamin Franklin, President, three Vice-Presidents, and five Secretaries. His medical diploma was granted him by St. Andrew's University, Aberdeen, in 1801. During the twenty years in London, he was engaged in the practice of obstetrics, in teaching the art and in lecturing on the theory and practice of midwifery and the diseases of women and children. His facility in drawing led him to delineate many cases of an uncommon character within his own experience, which were engraved. He also illustrated other scientific work than his own. He was devoted to collecting and preserving preparations and specimens, as his large museum in Leadenhall Street testified. His water-colour drawing of the museum is too specialized to reproduce here. His *Anatomical Instructor*, published in 1790, an illustration of the modern and most approved methods of preparing and preserving the different parts of the human body, &c., by injection, corrosion, maceration, distention, articulation and modelling, with copper plates drawn by himself, "has been esteemed one of the best books on the subject."* A new edition was forthcoming in 1813. It is still found in medical libraries.

During the earlier years, his medical practice and scientific work gradually developed and became absorbing—in the later years they were extensive. His practice became particularly trying, as it involved such frequent exposure at night; his lecturing to pupils was constant and regular, his

* Thomas Hodgkin, M.D.

anatomical museum required and received the most careful attention—it was replete with objects of instruction in his own especial branches. In 1786 he lectured to the Physical Society at Guy's Hospital on The Theory and Phenomena of Vision, and the Utility and Abuse of Optical Glasses.

Thomas Pole's diaries of this period reveal a life full of thought and work in London and neighbourhood. They exhibit various activities, and we get a bird's-eye view of professional work, life at home, and of the interests of the Society of Friends. His power of observation, his reflective and analytical turn of mind gave him an insight to character. He possessed a strong intuitive faculty of discerning states and conditions of those whom he addressed as a minister of the Gospel. These valuable faculties stood him in good stead also in his profession. A man of enlightened views and wide sympathies and with a prevailing sense of the obligations of life cannot expect an easy time. He is impelled forward, but not without innumerable occasions of conflicting interests. Thus we have patients waiting for a medical consultation, the attendance of a mid-week meeting for worship, and bearing a testimony against drink-toasts at a fashionable dinner-table, following each other on one day. On another, at a meeting appointed for a marriage, in a crowded house, Thomas Pole, being painfully struck with the gaiety of dress, perhaps all the more so because of the many present of various denominations, testifies to its inconsistency with Friends' views, and then spends the rest of the day at the inn with the party to leaven their levity and guard against a reproach upon Friends.

Another day, a Monday, begins with an early walk of ten miles to his work after attending a country meeting and accepting a night's hospitality. One entry is as follows: "Started from London at 3 a.m." on a Saturday in winter, "arrived at Worcester 11 p.m. Next day engaged in the ministry morning and afternoon, and in the evening had a comfortable opportunity at the Girls' Boarding School, kept

by Esther Price, a valuable Friend, where I felt favoured in the delivery of my testimony. Our Heavenly Father was graciously pleased to manifest His heart tendering power . . . many of the youth and others were melted into contrition." Then comes the long, cold ride in the stage-coach back to London. On his return he suffered no small pain and uneasiness from something that had occurred during his absence in relation to his profession, causing a struggle ere he felt resigned, but which he accepted as a trial of faith "to see whether we are willing to lose for the cause of Truth." A month later, "Cause for thankfulness in the increase of my business. Some would persuade me to live and act so as to cut more figure in the world in order to get more business; but I am most easy to move in my simple line."

Again on 2nd mo. 12th, 1784, the entry is:—"Preparing for a journey of several days into the country, visited patients and committed them to care of medical friends during my absence. Set off at 2 p.m. for Cheltenham, rode all night in the coach. Spent three days with my endeared friend, Elizabeth Barrett, at her mother's. William Barrett having died a few days before, hastened my coming, to feel a little with them in their deep trial." In the evening of the third day after, "I rode about seven miles to an inn called Kilkenny, in order to go to London; arrived there too late for the coach and had to return to Cheltenham. Spent the next day with my friends, and in the evening, on horseback, with servant, reached the place in good time, but the coach was full! In returning once more to Cheltenham we were lost in a field of snow, eventually got out and rode to a village, but no one would open a door to direct us. . . . Next day rode to Gloucester and took the coach, arrived the day after in London—114 miles in 19 hours—a cold, unpleasant, fatiguing journey. Visited my patients, and thankful no important cases had required my presence."

His Marriage.

Soon after Thomas Pole's arrival in England he had accompanied his relatives, Ann Young and Hester Bowly, to the Gloucestershire Quarterly Meeting, and this excursion, he says, led to an acquaintance with the family of William Barrett, and proved an introduction to his daughter, Elizabeth, who was to be his greatest earthly blessing for nearly forty years. She was the eldest child of William and Mary Barrett of Cheltenham. Educated at a boarding school at Worcester, kept by Sarah Fell (who afterwards married William Squire of Charlbury), she resided later on in Worcester with her brother; and as her half-sister Martha had then become Richard Burlingham's wife and lived in that city, the sisters were together amidst congenial friends, an advantage which was lacking at Cheltenham.

Elizabeth was a young woman of serious character, and when Thomas Pole proposed marriage to her—based on the best of ground, true affection—"she consulted several experienced Friends who were solicitous for her welfare, and had resort to a Wisdom superior to her own. Whilst her mind was engaged in deliberating on this subject, a friend of Bristol, took an opportunity with her and endeavoured to dissuade her from accepting my proposals, insinuating unfavourable views of me. This she communicated to some of the Friends alluded to, who learning she was not uneasy in herself, gave their opinion that she had nothing to do with the views of the officious interferer."

Elizabeth Barrett then returned home to Cheltenham, and the marriage was accomplished on May 5th, 1784, in the Meeting House there. Henry Wilkins of Cirencester, Timothy Bevington of Worcester, and Eli Bevington of London, ministers, were present; and "I thought," says Doctor Pole, "each of these was favoured above their ordinary degree in the exercise of their ministry. The Meeting House was crowded principally by persons not of

our Society, amongst whom were several in high rank. It was, in my opinion, a satisfactory and instructive season to many present." Among the signatories to the marriage certificate appear William Augustus Howard, M.D., F.R.S., Thomas Nettleship, Lucy Ann Byron, Robert Quarme, and Walter Prideaux.

There was no hurrying away of bride and bridegroom in those times. Two days afterwards they proceeded on their way towards London—Martha Burlingham accompanying them. They spent a day with relatives at Cirencester, a day or two with Joseph and Sarah Rickman at Maidenhead, thence to a small house in Falcon Court, Lothbury, where they decided to begin the world. And here Elizabeth Pole was warmly welcomed by Friends of Gracechurch Street Meeting, of which her husband was a member. In this house their first child, John, was born.

Dr. J. C. Lettsom proved a good friend to them during an attack of fever, from which Thomas Pole's recovery was not expected, and John Lister befriended them when they were disturbed by fire. It was not long before they removed to Talbot Court, Gracechurch Street, and after nine years there a larger house was sought and a move made to 102 Leadenhall Street, opposite Billiter Lane.

Excursion to France.

As already shewn Thomas Pole was at this period very fully occupied, so a respite of the briefest duration was arranged, and he took a few days' excursion to the North of France—to St. Omers by canal from Calais—of which he wrote an account, and illustrated it for his wife. The water-colour sketches are quaint. We reproduce one showing a curious double bridge at a point where the canals are at right angles (drawing No. 36). He left London with T. and E. Beck on September 21st, 1791, in a diligence for Dover, where he had first landed sixteen years ago, and first enjoyed English hospitality after his tempestuous voyage.

Embarking for Calais in one of the regular packets, they met with a contrary wind and fresh gale. This was all to the good, for he wished to be made thoroughly seasick—an opportunity which lasted four and half hours. His companion was a youth, Benjamin Dornford, son of Josiah Dornford, of Deptford. At Calais “the ship was boarded by about a dozen waiters.” They put up at the London Hotel. The dinner that awaited them “consisted of slender soup, followed by three courses supplied with oils and sour sauces.

“We were shown round several places of Worship, and I was requested to take off my hat. The attendant appeared satisfied when I told him I belonged to a sect who religiously objected to uncovering their heads in veneration of place or person. We visited nunneries . . . and were shewn over other places by a very interested, polite and pretty little girl, whose pains to satisfy our curiosity gave pleasure to us and herself. My mind was too active to allow of much sleep that night, but I rose next morning at 5.30, and we made the best of our way to the barge, in a canal about a mile from the town. This barge was drawn by two horses, who travelled at a good foot-pace. We made short stops frequently to land and receive goods, and I had the opportunity of making several pencil sketches of the landscape. We also frequently stepped out of the barge and walked a mile or two for a change.

“There were several passengers besides ourselves, amongst whom were a surgeon, a captain from Camberwell, one from Canterbury, and a French officer—men of accomplished manners. About half way on our journey, we stopped and dined at an inn and were diverted by a party of rustics and two priests. For our meal of four courses we paid 10d., and for our conveyance to St. Omers, thirty miles, 15d. Our companion from Camberwell desired to consult a local physician, and as in this town there were celebrated schools, he hoped to find a highly qualified man. We were disappointed in the doctor’s being so sparing of his words, his

judgment being summed up in one word '*Rheumatiz*,' and his remedy 'the hot bath, a cold purge'; his fee for two visits was about equal to 2/7. The fortifications, and the gold, silver and jewels in the Treasury of the Church, also the splendour of its altar, engaged our attention, as well as other objects on this French ground to which we were unaccustomed.

"We left St. Omers for Calais in a conveyance which would never have raised our ambition nor excited the envy of others. Its weight was as extraordinary as its apparent antiquity. Our charioteer was thin and of scanty apparel, and our bony horses, with harness of leather straps, ropes and cord, proceeded at the rate of four miles an hour. Fashion in carriages must have had many revolutions since this preposterous machine was constructed . . .

"We embarked in a packet for Dover, not sorry to leave this distracted country, for though not immediately engaged in bloodshed, a general murmur prevailed . . .

"On approaching the English coast, another vessel which had put out from Calais just before us, raced ours. We were nearly neck and neck, each carried full sail into port, and just as we were entering the harbour the vessels ran foul of each other, their rigging became entangled and both drove furiously on the beach. We were landed safely in boats."

Labours outside the Society.

There is no doubt that during the closing years of the 18th century, when he was about 45 years of age, he was hardest at work in his profession, yet active and constant in his ministerial labours. His diary shows how frequently he was summoned out of meeting, to the annoyance of his sense of order and decorum, and how he worked night and day; how he made his professional work a religious concern and a matter for prayer, which was no doubt why he was so successful in the most critical of cases. It was particularly at this period, too, that he felt

it to be his duty to lay before Devonshire House Monthly Meeting his concern to labour amongst those outside our own membership, and this was in part carried out in the visit to Bristol and Somerset, but that part relating to London and its vicinity took the Meeting some time to decide on. To help in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion the London and Middlesex Quarterly Meeting was called in. He was duly liberated, and had the assistance of the respective Meetings in every instance; and many public meetings were held and largely attended, chiefly by those not in membership with our Society. The way in which he was guided when and where to go or not to go, so that his interests did not clash, forms a wonderful object lesson to the weak in faith.

Religious Visit to Bristol and Somerset.*

The concern of this visit was carried out in three ways. A great number of calls were paid on individuals and our meetings were attended in which he had much service, but chiefly was it satisfied by holding public meetings in buildings lent for the purpose, by which means he could the more readily reach those outside our Society, for his aim was to inspire a higher view of Christian life. In our own meetings he addressed himself especially to different states and conditions of mind common to all ages. The social opportunities of personal intercourse he turned to good account, they formed a pleasant contrast to the heavy responsibilities attaching to the public meetings.

On one occasion (ix 25, 1798) he says, "After breakfast, came to see me Ann and Charlotte Rees, two amiable and serious girls, not of our Society.† The younger of them, now about fifteen years of age, when in her twelfth year wrote

* The record of the first eight days is lost.

† They afterwards joined, Ann marrying Edmund Naish, and Charlotte marrying William Lloyd.

and published a small work entitled 'Sermons, with a Poem : Thoughts in a Burial Ground.' I was pleased with their friendly disposition to come and spend a little time with me." That same day was a very full one. He had walked to M. Dimsdale's to breakfast from Berkeley Square, Bristol. He then attended the week-day meeting at the Friars, "which was larger than usual, others than Friends being present." Part of his ministry was addressed to those advanced in years, inviting such into the Lord's vineyard, if it may be at the eleventh hour. This was followed by the Monthly Meeting. After that he went home, dined with John Tuckett and had the company of S. Young, P. D. Tuckett and several others.

"Later in the day," he says, "We went to Joseph Fry's, where it was appointed that I should meet the Friends who were to accompany me to the Ebenezer. Being early, I preferred sitting alone, so retired into a room by myself to endeavour to keep my mind in a state of inward calmness, and fixed upon Him by whose power alone our earthly spirits can arise, during which the prayers of my soul were put up for help and assistance. At the proper time I proceeded to the Meeting House (*i.e.* the Ebenezer Wesleyan Chapel), accompanied by my friends, Thomas Rutter, Samuel Dyer, John Lury, George Withy, P. D. Tuckett, John Tuckett, Joseph Fry and William Lewis. Though we were before the time appointed, we found the house filling rapidly—people were pouring in as fast as the doors would admit them, and the lower part of the building was so full that it was with considerable difficulty we made our way to the upper part of the house, where Thomas Rutter and I took our seats in a very exalted pulpit, from which were previously removed the sconces and crimson cushion. Finding a Bible lay open before us, we shut it and placed it under the seat that all might see we made no use of books in the exercise of ministry. The whole house became exceedingly crowded, and it was apprehended there were not much less than 3000 persons within the walls and several hundred without

at the doors and under the windows, besides many who went away not being able to come within hearing, as I was afterwards informed. For some time after we took our seats the meeting seemed to be in a general bustle, owing to the crowded state of the people; the principal confusion was about the doors from efforts to press in.

“This visit was a great novelty, and so unexpected that it excited curiosity. Friends, generally, were given to understand that their company was not expected, and that if they came in numbers it would in some measure frustrate the design of the visit. Notwithstanding this precaution fifty to a hundred attended. After our sitting some time in silence, with regard to any verbal expression, during which my spirit was engaged to look steadfastly toward the Rock of Ages for preservation and strength in an undertaking of such weight and magnitude, I was strengthened to stand up to endeavour to discharge my duty towards this multitude in the sight of my Lord and Master with faithfulness, and, after some observations tending to quiet and compose the people, I opened upon the passage ‘God is Love.’ I endeavoured to show that it is the true badge of Christ’s disciples, the foundation of all religion and the great pillar of support in the true Church, and that as it effectually prevailed in the hearts of the people at large, it would essentially change the aspect of Christendom by abolishing the walls of prejudice, superstition and bigotry, which have rended and divided mankind into sects and parties. It would harmonise individual families and all the nations of the world, bring us into the imitation of Christ, put an end to discord, strife and war: . . . and the prevalence of this one ever essential principle of the religion of Jesus would bring about the fulfilment of the ancient prophecy that the time should come when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, . . . and when glory to God, peace on earth and goodwill to men shall resound from every part of the universe. After the close of what I had to communicate,

Thomas Rutter kneeled down in supplication to the supreme Author of all our blessings, in which his mind seemed clothed with heavenly light and sweetness. . . . Subsequently I found my mind engaged to address the younger part of the company on the manner of spending their leisure, the choice of associates, and against the many temptations this large city affords. When the meeting broke up the Methodist ministers invited us to take port wine and biscuit in the vestry. They were very friendly. In the house adjoining, occupied by one of their preachers, I met two of the preachers' wives who had been my patients in London, but since that time they were left widows. Thence we went to Joseph Fry's, in Union Street, where we took coach to Berkeley Square, to supper."

About ten days of this visit were spent in Bristol and the remaining ten days in the country. At that time Friends were well represented in the agricultural districts and in the market towns of Somerset. Thomas Pole found opportunities of service in many places. Friends volunteered to drive him through the county, to entertain him, to accompany him to meetings and assist in arranging them. People of other denominations were willing to accept the visits he had in view, lent their buildings and gathered on short notice in large numbers to hear his message.

In regard to one place where he desired to hold a meeting, the Friends he had intended to consult were attending a fair elsewhere, so after consideration he "felt free to leave it hoping that the feet of some other messenger may be turned in that path." He continues:—

"I concluded to proceed to John Benwell's, at Sidcot. There I found two Friends travelling in religious service who shortly left for Chew. . . . A meeting was arranged for me at Banwell, where Friends had not before had a meeting. . . . On my way from Sidcot to Winthill I called on Hannah Tanner, a widow, some of whose children I had already had the company of, to my satisfaction and comfort. I walked from Winthill to Banwell in company

with several Friends—John Thomas (in his 84th year) and Sarah Squires went on horseback—to the house of Prudence Grigg, the only Friend in the village. The meeting house the Methodists lent for the occasion, filling faster than was expected, was soon completely filled, many persons stood outside the doors and windows, and others went away. The pulpit accommodated John Thomas, Sarah Squires and myself, and there were about 400 present. ‘What shall I render unto God for all His Blessings,’ for I had experienced within myself that light, love and strength which enabled me to deliver my message. We were hospitably entertained for the night, and thus avoided risk of exposure after the strain and heat of the meeting. We rose about 6 o’clock and walked to our Friends at Winthill, where we breakfasted.

We set off in our chaise soon after and were like to have paid dearly for the bounty of our host towards our horse, for being highly fed with beans, which he had not been used to, we had gone but a few miles before he began to show a flow of spirits which he first discovered by suddenly starting off at a full gallop. This was happily checked by both of us applying our strength to the reins. For many miles after that he put us in fear of our lives by running out of the road in a part of the country between Cross and Bridgwater, where for a considerable distance there are no hedges or fences, the road being bounded only by broad and deep ditches—the drains of this flat country—large enough to receive and bury a stage coach. We arrived safely at Bridgwater about noon, stopped at Richard Ball’s and then proceeded through Taunton to Milverton—about 42 miles that day. I got out at the lower end of the town and walked to my cousin, Sarah Young’s Boarding School, to see my eldest daughter, Mary Ann. I lodged with my aunt, Mary Pole, now a widow in her 86th year.

“First-day, 30th (9th mo.). I rode to Wellington and took my daughter in the chaise. Was at the morning meeting, dined at our valued Friend, Mary Were’s, drank tea at Thomas Fox’s, and held a public meeting in the

evening, which was crowded in every corner by those of other societies. The current of gospel ministry was opened in unusual freedom and power and led me on. I hope it was a time of edification and encouragement to many present. . . .

"10th mo. 1st.—Returned to Milverton, and in the afternoon we walked to Battlehay (No. 18) to visit my tenant and look over the premises, returning to a late dish of tea.

"Visited the children at the School. . . . I was dipped into sympathy with the small number of our Society in this place. . . . The school children composed the greater part of the company present in the meeting.

* "3rd.—Thomas Davis applied for the use of the Meeting House belonging to the Independents at Wiveliscombe, where I found my mind drawn to have a meeting this evening. It was readily granted, and notice was given through the town. There had been but one meeting in this town held by Friends for about forty years. After an early dish of tea, I walked to Wiveliscombe with cousin Thomas Young.* T. Davis and D. Zachary followed us. We had a pretty full meeting. This was a more laborious one than any I have yet had amongst people of other societies. I seemed to feel the dark and ignorant state of the people's minds into which I could not find that free entrance I wished for. Towards the close I addressed the younger part of the company. . . . At the conclusion, the Preacher of this house expressed to me his wish that the important truths delivered might sink deeply into the hearts of those present, and offered me the use of the house at any time. I told him I was glad to find an increasing liberality in different societies of Christians toward each other. The Parson of the parish attended this meeting, which has been the case in several places where I have had public meetings. I was kindly invited to stop the night, but concluded to return, having only a short time more with my friends at Milverton, so walked back again by the light of a lanthorn with T. Young and T. Davis."

* Father of the celebrated Dr. T. Young.

Thomas Pole's desire was to visit Taunton next, but this visit had to be deferred owing to a general illumination on account of an extraordinary naval victory; then it was found that the preacher of the largest dissenting place of worship—a new Presbyterian church—was away at Lyme, thirty miles distant. Two Friends wrote to him for the use of this building, and Robert Young undertaking to convey the application went himself as far as Chard, and despatched a messenger thence to Lyme. By thus dividing the journey the reply from the preacher, Isaac Tozer, cordially acquiescing in the request, was obtained the same evening and forwarded the following morning to Thomas Pole. Meanwhile the meeting was announced.

“6th day, 5th.—I rode to Taunton. . . . Here I met Mary Marshman, a patient when resident in London, and was entertained as usual by Joseph Gifford. Called on several Friends, and drank tea at George Clark's. . . . The large building was well filled, . . . it was supposed to hold about 2000 persons. I went as usual before the time announced for the meeting, and in the committee room endeavoured to keep my mind retired that the streams of Gospel ministry may be pure and edifying, and I was again strengthened to communicate the burden of my soul. The people were very orderly, and a solid attention seemed to overspread the company.

“7th day, 6th.—I left Taunton after breakfast in the stage coach for Bristol, calling on Richard Ball at Bridgwater whilst our horses were changed; dined at Cross; arrived in Bristol about six p.m., and went to Joseph Fry's in Union Street, where I drank tea with him, his wife and Sarah Allen. Surgeon Bainton came in and we spent an hour in conversation on medical subjects. Joseph Fry walked with me to Berkeley Square, where I lodged at Anna Fry's* as before, and there met again my esteemed friend Elizabeth Bevington and her daughter Rachel.”

* *née* Portsmouth.

He had further service in Bristol. A very large and crowded congregation attended the Friars in the evening of October 7th. The following invitation had been given that morning by Thomas Pole and Elizabeth Bevington, "as strangers in this place in a degree of Gospel Love, which is not restricted to the narrow limits of a Society, but breathes universal benevolence to mankind at large, wish, in the prevalence of that Love, to have not only the company of those now present, but also such of their neighbours as might be inclined to sit with us. And we request those present to give the necessary invitation." Both Friends were engaged in the ministry, and a marked impression was made at the large evening meeting.

Thomas Pole lodged that night at Joseph Fry's, being convenient for taking the coach early next morning for London.

Second-day, the 8th.—"I rose at three o'clock, took breakfast, and at four set off in the stage for London. We breakfasted at Chippenham; dined at Spinnam Land in Berkshire, and reached London between ten and eleven at night. Not having had sufficient sleep after so very exercising a meeting on the preceding evening, I had felt unwell on the road, but some hours after, I was relieved and favoured with a tranquillity and consoling hope that my journey and arduous labours had not been in vain."

East Years in London.

Having given in some detail particulars of the journey to Somerset, but few notes can be set out here on the diligent and close application Thomas Pole devoted to carrying out his concern to hold meetings in London, but we must give one or two.

Amongst the places named where meetings were appointed, we find Tottenham, Deptford, Plaistow, Wandsworth, Devonshire House (twice), and we learn that he received much comfort and encouragement from testimonies

of weighty Friends in respect to these engagements. He speaks of the meeting at Westminster as being the largest and most satisfactory he had held, the building was very full and but few Friends present.

"Seventh mo., 21st, 1799. At Devonshire House Meeting in the morning, visited the sick in the afternoon, and in the evening to the meeting appointed at my request at Horsley Down Meeting House which was also attended by David Sands (from America), Abraham Jackson (from Ireland), S. Elgar, M. Savory and Jane Harris. We sat three quarters of an hour in silence, when my mind was strengthened to communicate the fruits of its exercise, . . . various points of doctrine opened in my prospect in stepping along, and I have reason to believe the Lord was with those who were gathered in His name. David Sands, M. Savory and S. Elgar also took a part in the meeting, which was principally composed of those of other societies, and they sat till nearly nine o'clock."

In the years 1800-1801, in consequence of over work, Thomas Pole's health gave way. His rest was greatly interrupted by his obstetric practice. His lectures every morning of the week, and toil to keep up and increase his Anatomical Museum for the instruction of his pupils, prevented repose in the day time. He was recommended to try the waters at Cheltenham. Thither a post chaise conveyed him and his wife, where Dr. Edward Jenner most kindly attended him. In four weeks they removed to Bath, and after three weeks in that watering place he returned to London to resume his engagements.

Although benefited by the rest and treatment he lectured and attended his patients with difficulty during the ensuing winter, and it soon became evident that a decided change must be made. Through George Withy they heard of a house, 14 St. James' Square, Bristol, belonging to Sarah Fox. As this accorded with their inclinations they left London, took this house and removed to Bristol in 1802.

In Bristol.

On settling in Bristol Dr. Pole at once resumed his lectures.* In a prospectus issued in 1802 he states that his courses on General Science would be adapted to persons of both sexes, as he deemed women to have been too much excluded from opportunities of Scientific Improvement. The series opened with a course on Chemistry, followed by others on the Economy of Nature, those on Mineralogy being illustrated from his own collection gathered in Cornwall, "the whole particularly calculated for the attendance of women." These drew an audience varying from one hundred to two hundred. His intercourse with William Allen, begun in London, was now continued by correspondence, and at this juncture was relative to the experiments for the lectures. He sent the London chemist large white models of crystals for illustrating his lectures, such as he made and used himself. His digital ingenuity, which we have seen was evinced in childhood, remained with him and was turned to account in many ways, and his use of pictorial illustration as a means to impress facts was characteristic. His medical and surgical work grew in the new neighbourhood till it became prominent and important, but the stress was less than it had been in London.

His son John early mastered the art of pharmacy and proved a most assiduous assistant at his father's lectures and in the surgery. He was a young man of unusual promise. Thomas Pole felt the loss keenly when he died from typhus fever in November, 1803, then only in his nineteenth year. John had disclosed a very inquisitive turn of mind when at William Rickman's boarding school at Rochester, and later a love of literature and science kindled within him. He pursued his studies under Dr. Bradley and

* The Bristol Medical School was not organized till more than 25 years later. Medical and scientific lectures depended upon individual enterprise.

William Allen, and at the Borough Hospital where he was offered and availed himself of exceptional facilities for acquiring knowledge. No wonder he was loath to leave London and its opportunities, but he accompanied his father and made the best of the change. He studied with one of Dr. Pole's Bristol pupils, James Cowles Prichard,* who had come to reside with him, and he kept in touch with John A. Ransome, his father's late assistant in London. His death evoked marked sorrow; his personal friends bore him to the grave, where amidst a large company his father was drawn, notwithstanding his grief, to address the young people present. The many testimonies borne by well-known Friends and others evidenced the love and regard in which John Pole was held.

Of their other four children who came to Bristol with them, Rachel and Eliza were at this time in school at Milverton, where their elder sister had been educated. Dr. Pole's drawing of the meeting house in this little town shows the forms within the door which were occupied by a school for boys, and the window over the door which lights the gallery where the girls were seated—well out of sight of the youth below, so the story goes. In 1807 Mary Ann, the eldest daughter, was married to Francis M. Fowler; they eventually emigrated to Baltimore.

In 1809 Dr. Pole assisted in promoting the Lancasterian Schools in Bristol. We give his silhouette of his friend, Joseph Lancaster (drawing No. 12). He was also actively engaged in visiting the prisoners in Bridewell and the schools which were shortly afterwards established on Sunday afternoons, when unoccupied with his patients. He was a strong advocate of Peace, and neglected no opportunity of proclaiming the inconsistencies of the Christian world—so called—which must convey the idea that we believe in a

* Thomas Hodgkin, M.D., in his biographical sketch of J. C. Prichard, refers to his going "to Bristol from Ross to study under Dr. Pole, an ingenious American who had for years been engaged in teaching the obstetric art."

God without mercy or justice. Dr. Pole took part in the first meeting preparatory to forming a Peace Society in the City, held at the Montague Tavern, Kingsdown, called together by Joseph T. Price, a Welshman. Amongst the others present were Thomas Sanders, Joseph Reynolds, and Lambert Schimmelpenninck.

In 1811 he received from his friend, Lindley Murray, a presentation copy of *The Power of Religion on the Mind*, 14th Edition, following upon correspondence on the abridgment of *The Grammar*, in issuing which the author adopted suggestions made by Dr. Pole. The same year he lost his intimate friend, Sarah Fox (drawing No. 14), whose constant

*The society of Friends in this City, by whom
she was deservedly esteemed, as an example of
the beneficial influence of unfeigned Religion,
have, by her removal, sustained a loss only to
be compensated by that omnipotent Being, who
alone can confer the same important blessings
on whom he may chuse to fill her vacant
seat with an equal degree of Christian Dignity.*

With sincere regard, I remain

Thy affectionate friend

Thos. Pole

Bristol 12th mo. 22nd 1811.

Written to Sarah Fry, after the death of Sarah Fox.

adviser he had been since she lost her husband. His estimate of her character appears in Hugh Owen's *Two Centuries of Ceramic Art in Bristol*, and closes the memorials of the Champion family in that book. One of her latest visits was paid to Hannah More at Barley Wood, in company with Richard Reynolds, who at that time was living in St. James' Square.

Adult Schools.

Thomas Pole's work in the establishment of Adult Schools, arising out of his promotion of the Bristol Auxiliary of the Bible Society, was a fresh and important outlet for his activities. This Society was founded in 1810; and he was identified with the movement from its initiation. He deemed the co-operation of many denominations desirable in itself.

In 1811 the first purely Adult School had been established by Rev. Thomas Charles of Bala, Merionethshire, who found that adults were averse to associate with the children in their schools.

In 1812 William Smith, a chapel doorkeeper,* started Adult Schools in Bristol. He and his associates set to work to remove from the public mind the long-fixed and erroneous impression that persons of mature age were incapable of receiving instruction in the knowledge of letters, and that they could not devote sufficient time to learn to read.

In calling on the poor to distribute Bibles William Smith invited them to attend the proposed schools. Aided by Stephen Prust, a tobacco merchant, in nineteen days from mooted the matter William Smith, having collected the learners and engaged the teachers, opened the first Adult School in England in borrowed rooms with borrowed books. On the day it was opened in March, 1812, it was attended by eleven men and ten women.

* Later he became a distributor of religious periodical publications to the houses of subscribers.

The Society for instructing adults to read the Holy Scriptures was formed in Bristol within a few weeks by Thomas Martin, and he may be styled the Parent of the first Adult School Society.

In 1813 Thomas Pole issued his Address to the Committee of this Society, which he delivered on May 28 of that year, and which was published by the Committee. (Printed by Charles McDowall.) He joined the Committee, and by some was considered the life and soul of the movement. Within the first year nine schools were opened for men and nine for women—600 persons were admitted, and the teaching staff reached 68. In the following year there was an increase. Within that year (1813) the Society of Friends granted the free use of a large room on Sundays at the Friars, Bristol, where was established a school for women, conducted by Friends; and here writing was taught, to which some of the Committee dissented, but subsequently entirely approved.

Within two years 1508 men and women had been admitted, and nearly 1300 were then receiving instruction, besides some 200 to 300 unattached to the Society.

In 1814 *A History of the Origin and Progress of Adult Schools*, by Thomas Pole, M.D., member of the Committee of the Parent Society, *i.e.* the Bristol Society for teaching the adult poor, &c., was published; for by the end of 1813 a similar work had been set on foot at Plymouth, and a few months later a society with the same objects was started in Southwark.

In the Autumn of 1815 Thomas Pole was invited to attend the First Anniversary of the Berks and Bucks Society, whose Patron was the Prince Regent, and one of its Vice-Presidents was George Vansittart. Unfortunately his professional engagements prevented his presence. Meanwhile the schools in Bristol had advanced; for the fourth annual report of the Parent Society states that there were no less than 55 schools into which had been admitted 3321 men and women: and there were then in the schools nearly

1600, in the proportion of about eight women to seven men. William Smith had in the interim gone to Bath, and by 1816 that city had twenty schools and over 650 adults attending.

That year Thomas Pole issued a second edition of his *History*, revised and enlarged; for by that time the movement, helped forward by the book, had spread, Adult Schools having been started in many towns and villages. Thomas Pole advocated unpaid officers and teachers, on the score of economy, so that no obstacle should stand in the way of persons of small means opening schools, also that they should be staffed by those with their heart in the work. This edition of the *History* contains a letter from Thomas Charles, of Bala, confirming Dr. Pole's arguments.

James Montgomery evinced by his correspondence with Thomas Pole an interest in the work, and wrote for him a poem which he describes as a "gleaning of good old thoughts bound into a sheaf."

Amongst the correspondence at this time there is a letter from the Duke of Kent marking his approval of the *History*—"considering the subject of adult education an object of national importance"; also one from N. Vansittart, Chancellor of the Exchequer; and several from William Wilberforce, expressive of his friendship with the author, and bearing testimony to the project, adding, "I have seen few books more likely to stimulate the efforts of humane and active minds."

Thomas Pole had not forgotten his American Friends, nor they him. In New York Adult Schools were started; his *History* was republished there, portions of it also appeared in Philadelphia, and there the schools obtained a footing, the first school being opened on February 27th, 1815, and by the fifth meeting they had 374 in attendance; Schools were opened for men and women of colour by men and women Friends, and Sunday Schools were established in almost every place of worship in Philadelphia, 4,000 members attending.

Though Friends were to the fore in the van of the movement, as they are to-day in Adult Schools, the work was then as now unsectarian, and there was the same avoidance of proselytising. In reading the exhaustive statement and chronicle embodied in the *History*, in which objections, benefits, results, reports from conductors, and address to conductors, rules, &c., are all dealt with, one cannot but feel that here was the germ of the wider present day movement under the modern system of education. The present Adult School work no doubt differs in some ways from what was carried on forty or fifty years ago, as much as that probably did from the beginnings early in the last century.

Personal.

In 1816 his daughter Rachel was married to Nehemiah Duck. The near approach of this event called forth an instance of his rhymed verse:—

What Rara Avis can it be
That soar'd amongst the Stars to see
The Planets in their orbits roll,
And took possession of the *Pole*?
A Duck!

What modest maiden can it be
Who roam'd abroad the Birds to see,
To take the one she loved the most,
And chose the *Duck* from all the Host?
Rachel.

The union was a happy one in the home thereby established, and in the help Dr. Duck was able to and did give to Elizabeth Pole during her painful illness, and to his father-in-law in various ways. The families of his two daughters were a source of delight to Thomas Pole. The children were drawn to him by his love and sympathy which led him to do for them as he had done for his own: entertain, write rhymes for them, draw pictures for them illustrating dominant features in their characters with a

purpose, and foster their highest interests. Undoubtedly his leverage was love.

In contrast to the home life come the duties of his profession. The same spirit pervades both. Here is an entry in 1818 :—"Called in consultation upon an alarming obstetric case, I saw in a few minutes that the sufferer could not survive, . . . the practitioner in attendance had not become aware of this. I had to acquaint her as gradually and tenderly as I could. This is the third case of the kind in Bristol to which I have been called in consultation. I am thankful to be able to say that I have not lost one patient of my own in this branch of practice for thirty years, and never more than four since I began to practice medicine in early life. In this case I was deeply concerned for the immortal spirit of the sufferer, and my prayers were poured out in secret on her behalf." It is abundantly evident in his life's practice how interwoven are his ministrations to body and soul. To Divine help he attributes his success, and to God he gives the glory.

Often weighed down, Thomas Pole yet speaks of his afflictions as proving his greatest blessings. He was a man of prayer. In his communications to others he was concerned to offer food suitable to their mental and spiritual state, and in close personal dealing he dwelt on the necessity of faithfulness to manifestations of duty. In one, he says : "If the more profound and intricate matters of the Arts and Sciences required solitude and retirement from the busy scenes of society and commerce—and this is acknowledged by every studious man—how much more do the important concerns of our immortal souls and our intellectual communion with the Creator demand our frequent, our greatest abstraction from the things of time and sense."

Infant Schools.

In 1823 he published a little book, *Observations Relative to Infant Schools*, designed to point out their

usefulness to the children of the poor, to their parents and to society at large, and calculated to assist those who may incline to establish such schools.

This went thoroughly into the objects to be attained by such schools, and touched on many points in relation to children and their teachers. There is no doubt that his medical interest in children and his great love for them drew his attention to the need of introducing an elevating and happy recreative influence on the children of the poorer classes at the earliest possible period of their lives, regarding a child as that emblem of purity, humility and teachableness blessed by our Saviour.

An appendix of original verses for children was projected, which was not incorporated, though some were written for him by S. H. and Anna Hughes. It is considered, I believe, that in Bristol Infant Schools were first thoroughly organized. Thomas Pole received assistance in preparing his book from Lord Brougham, who strongly advocated the work, he having started similar schools at Westminster, after he had visited such schools in 1816 in the neighbourhood of Berne, also in 1822 those established in 1815 at New Lanark by Robert Owen in connection with his mill. Neither did William Wilberforce omit his encouragement on receiving the book.

Closing Years.

Dr. Pole's later journals are more meditative, whilst medical, social and religious interests still pass in review, as well as family matters. His ministry evidences an enlarged gift, it was earnest and impressive, and there is abundant testimony to its quickening power; his life and teaching was permeated by his belief in the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit; and whilst holding clear convictions he was tolerant and charitable in word and deed. He saw the need of greater harmony between the Christian Churches.

An Essay on the *Universality of God's Love* shows his strong views against Calvinism. "Is God so unjust," he says,

"so much a respecter of persons, such a destroyer of His own creatures! Is He creating millions out of whose power He has placed it to be saved? Unimaginable." The Bristol Society for promoting Religious knowledge published another essay: *On the Irreverent Use of the Sacred Name*.

In 1821 he was attacked by a paralytic stroke, and though he recovered he relinquished much of his professional work after this time. But it is astonishing that his sight should still have been so keen and his hand so sure, as is apparent in the drawings produced, without the aid of glasses, for the pleasure of his friends after that date. The little "Red Book," a pocket album containing fifty pages of drawings, commenced in 1821, is full of imaginative designs (except a few from real life), and comprises some hundreds of drawings varying in size from about twelve square inches to the 300th part of a square inch; some of the best occupy an area of from three square inches down to half-an-inch respectively—sharp, clear and delicate in touch to a remarkable degree. These are specimens of the exercise of his natural gift.

The Red Book is representative of drawings that still exist in albums and other forms of keepsakes. His collection of profiles of personal friends drawn in earlier and later times was very large. His artistic tastes, pure and somewhat classical in character, found expression chiefly in water colour drawings of landscape and architecture, in monotints and silhouettes; and in a lesser degree in oils on wood panels. He was a friend of Turner's Dr. Munro. As late as 1826 Bernard Barton's correspondence with Thomas Pole bears emphatic tribute to the Doctor's keen sight and deftness of hand, which is repeated later on when his daughter Lucy is acknowledging a gift of drawings.

Thomas Pole was sorely tried late in life by monetary loss;* but his most severe trial was his wife's painful illness

* Chiefly through helping his son Thomas, who afterwards married out of the Society.

and death in 1823—she suffered long and acutely from cancer. Elizabeth Pole was a woman of conviction and courage. She shared with her husband in closest unity the solicitous care of her family, and filled well the offices of Overseer, then Elder, in the Society. Her hospitable and generous disposition gave her a wide influence. Some said she was a barometer of her husband's health; her sympathy cost her much, but carried its own reward. It led her to feel for those in dependent positions. As an instance of this trait we attribute the long association with Mary Daniel, familiarly "Molly," who had lived with her for thirty-one years, and had the care of all her children in early childhood, went with them to Stockwell Common for change of air, and, of course, moved with them to Bristol. Drawing No. 16 shows this worthy woman in the act of conveying succour to the invalid. One of the old-fashioned sort, she thrived on a wage of £10 and saved hundreds.

It is said of Elizabeth Pole in Thomas Pole's MS. memorials of her: "She cherished the growth of that seed which the great Husbandman of souls was from time to time pleased to sow in her heart, water with early and late rains, and render fruitful unto God. He who was her morning Light was also her evening Song. No cloud obscured her horizon, her sun set in brightness, and her day closed in Peace." Bernard Barton was moved by these memorials to write:—

"Nor with the sufferer's life should cease
The lesson it has taught—
Of patience—whose reward is Peace,
Of joy—by sorrow wrought;
Of Christian fortitude, whose sway,
Could meekly triumph or decay."

For the last three or four years of his life Dr. Pole suffered much from declining health. His habit of meditation, which clung to him even in his busiest seasons, now aided composure and peace of mind—thus sitting in his chair he

passed away quietly on September 28th, 1829, in the 76th year of his age.

The Bristol Monthly Meeting issued a testimony concerning him, which was signed by 40 men and 25 women, and endorsed by Bristol and Somerset Quarterly Meeting, signed by Jacob P. Sturge and Mary Tanner, its officers. This testimony enters very fully into his life, work and character—it is an affectionate tribute to one much beloved.

Genealogical Chart.

Edward and Mary Poje - formerly of Waterloo

Rev. W. Armstrong, D.D.

London, 17th, 1791

Yours and son
in America

1791-1792

1791-1792

1791-1792

See chart

List of Illustrations of Dr. Pole's Drawings,

WITH NOTES BY NORMAN PENNEY AND EDMUND T. WEDMORE.

- I.—Designed as Frontispiece to Dr. Pole's large Collection of Silhouettes of well-known Friends and others in England and America as well as of his own family. Some appropriate emblem is attached to many of them. We give examples of some of the styles he favoured.
- II.—THOMAS POLE, M.D.
- III.—THOMAS POLE, M.D. (1753-1829), AND HIS WIFE (1756-1823); taken in 1804.
- IV.—RACHEL DUCK, *née* Pole (1791-1851), (see page 37), Dr. Pole's second daughter, married Nehemiah Duck, surgeon, son of John and Betsy Duck (see No. 6). Nehemiah Duck received some teaching from his father, an apothecary; was instructed for four years, 1797-1800, by Francis C. Bowles; then became student at Bartholomew's Hospital, attending lectures by Dr. Thomas Bradley, John Abernethy, F.R.S., and Dr. Spurzheim. After his father's sudden death, he took a practice in Somerset and made a home for his mother, removing to Bristol in 1808, and practising there before and after his marriage. About 1830, till his death, he conducted a private asylum at Ridgway House, Stapleton, near Bristol. He died in 1842, at the age of 60; his widow then returned to Bristol, and lived till 1851.
- V.—JAMES AND ANNA BRINGHURST (see page 4). James Bringhurst (1730-1810) married Anna Pole, sister of Dr. Pole, in 1761. He was a member of the long-established family of Bringhursts in Wilmington, Delaware. Lindley Murray, writing in 1811 from York, pays a tribute to his worth. Anna (Pole) Bringhurst was born in 1737 and died in 1777.
- VI.—BETSY DUCK. Betsy Nixon, daughter of James Nixon, of Bristol, mariner, and Betty, his wife, was admitted into membership in 1776. In the following year she married John Duck, son of John Duck, late of Burford, Oxon, mercer, and Catherine, his wife. John Duck died in Bristol in 1800, leaving his widow with a young family. "Widow Duck" died in 1844, aged 90.
- VII.—JOSEPH RICKMAN (see page 8). Joseph Rickman was born in 1749, a native of Lewes. In 1772 he married Sarah Neave, of Staines, by whom he had a large family, of which Thomas Rickman, the noted architect (1776-1841), was one. Joseph Rickman for many years practised as surgeon and apothecary at Maidenhead. He died in Dublin in 1810. Thomas Pole resided with him for about two years and a half from 1777.

VIII.—ANN POLE (1751-1798). She was taught by Anthony Benezet in his School in Philadelphia. She was of a sprightly, gay and winning disposition. Although she lost her membership amongst Friends in America through not attending meetings, after coming to England at her brother Dr. Pole's invitation, she was regular in attendance, and lived with him and his wife and family in London for the last six years of her life, commanding respect by her readiness to serve poor and rich alike.

IX.—ELIZA BARRETT, daughter of Edmund Barrett, of Cheltenham, corn merchant, and niece of Dr. Pole. She died from the effect of burns, 1835.

X.—Dr. DUNCAN (1744-1828). Physician and Professor of Medicine.

XI.—ARNEE FRANK (1766-1858), born in Bristol, brought up by his grandfather, Zephaniah Fry, apprenticed at Milverton; returned to Bristol. Married in 1793 Edith Lovell, who died in 1799. Their daughter, Edith, married Henry Dymond, and became mistress of Sidcot School. (See F. A. Knight's *History of Sidcot School*.) Six years later he married Hannah Benwell, and their sons were well known: William Arnee as an artist in Bristol, and John as schoolmaster and editor of *The Friend*. Arnee Frank was Yearly Meeting Clerk in 1806: recorded a Minister in 1811. Bristol Monthly Meeting issued a testimony concerning him.

XI.—HENRY HULL, of Stanford, N.Y. Born in the State of New York in 1765. Married Sarah Hallock in 1785. Travelled in the ministry in different parts of his own country. In 1810-1812 he visited Great Britain and Ireland, during which visit he received information of the death of his wife, son, brother, and mother. He was at Bristol in 1812 (see *Charlotte Rees' Diary*), and attended a Quarterly Meeting at which twenty-one Ministers were present. In 1814 he married Sarah Cooper, of New Jersey. His death took place at Barnesville, Ohio, in 1834, while on a religious visit to Ohio Yearly Meeting. His *Memoir* was printed in 334 pages.

XII.—MARTHA SAVORY, daughter of Joseph and Anna Savory, was born in London in 1781. She married John Yeardley, of Yorkshire, in 1826. Both before and after her marriage she travelled as a Minister at home and abroad. Martha Yeardley died in 1851, and her husband in 1858. See *Memoir and Diary of John Yeardley*, edited by Charles Tylor, 1859, and various Works by Martha (Savory) Yeardley.

XII.—JOSEPH LANCASTER (see page 32), the well-known educationalist, was born in Southwark in 1778, and died, as the result of an accident, in New York in 1838. He became a member of the Society of Friends, but owing to embarrassment in consequence of his benevolent exertions, was subsequently disowned. His "*Life*" was written by Corston, 1840; Dunn, 1848; and Salmon, 1904.

- XIII.—MARY ANNE SCHIMMELPENNINCK. Born 1778, daughter of Samuel and Lucy (Barclay) Galton, of Birmingham. Married Lambert Schimmelpenninck, of Bristol, in 1806. Joined the Moravian Church in 1818. Died 1856. She was an Author. Her "*Life*" was written by Christiana C. Hankin. See also *D. N. B.*
- XIV.—SARAH FOX (see page 33), born 1741, was the daughter of Joseph Champion, merchant, of Bristol, afterwards of London and of Bath, and of his wife, Elizabeth (Rogers). Her brother, Richard, was the Bristol porcelain manufacturer. Her only sister, Esther, married Philip Debell Tuckett, the first of that name, of Frenchay. Sarah Champion was a cultured friend, of literary taste, and moving in intelligent society. Her journal still exists in private hands; it extends over many volumes, and from about 1745 to 1802, supplemented by copies of her letters to 1810. She married in 1790, in middle life, Charles Fox, Banker, son of John Fox, of Plymouth, who came to reside at Bristol on his marriage. They had no family; Charles Fox died in 1801, and his wife in 1811.
- XV.—WILLIAM SMITH (see page 34), much interested in the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society, found that the sale of Bibles was hindered by the lack of education among the poorer classes; as a consequence, with the aid of Stephen Prust, Thomas Martin, Methodist minister, and others, he opened classes to teach adults to read. William Smith had started the first Methodist Sunday school in 1804, and within ten years they were teaching 2248 boys and girls. See Pole's *History of Adult Schools*, 1816.
- XVI.—MARY DANIEL (see page 41). Her old fashioned figure is placed in the hall of 14 St. James' Square, Bristol, overlooking the garden at the back, opening into Brunswick Square at the further end, where there was a summer-house and two greenhouses.
- XVII.—DESIGN showing Silhouette of Dr. Pole.
- XVIII.—BATTLEHAY FARM (see pages 1, 27), the residence of the Pole family for several generations. The court before the door was formerly ornamented with box and yew trees, cut in representations of birds, etc.; the floor of the kitchen was paved with small pebbles, in which with white pebbles were formed the initials and date, E.P. 1695; a small parlour is entered through the kitchen chimney place; the peep at the garden when both front and back doors were open was very pretty.
- XIX.—THOMAS POLE'S HOUSE, MILVERTON. During Dr. Pole's first years in England he considered this house in Milverton his home, and often visited here later on. His uncle, Thomas Pole, was born 1711, and died in 1794, when his Monthly Meeting issued a testimony; and his aunt, Mary Pole (*née* Isaac) survived her husband many years.

- XX.—WILLIAM AND MARY BARRETT'S HOUSE IN CHELTENHAM (see page 12), standing in Oliver Cromwell's time in the middle of the town, taken down about 1830. Thomas Pole married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of William and Mary Barrett. The illustration is from his water-colour drawing of about 1784.
- XXI.—BROMLEY FARM, NEAR FRENCHAY, GLOS. Francis Martin Fowler was born in 1785; he married Mary Ann, eldest daughter of Thomas Pole, in 1807 (who was born in 1786). John Helton preached at the wedding—Rowland Hill was present, also Richard Reynolds, Thomas and Ann Bonville, and Arnee Frank, (see No. 11), the last named being the life of the party. Francis Martin Fowler and his family emigrated to America.
- XXII.—The Residence of PHÆBE ANN and ESTHER CHANDLER, Ailston Hill, near Hereford, to the north-west of Hereford; taken probably on the occasion of a General Meeting, and picturing an hour when dinner is waiting within this hospitable house. One of the sisters Chandler married Thomas Evans.
- XXIII.—The Residences of RICHARD REYNOLDS and his nephew, JAMES REYNOLDS, Faringdon, Berks. Richard Reynolds was a relative of the Bristol philanthropist of the same name. In Dr. Pole's collection of silhouettes is one of him, set in a landscape which shows the Meeting House (No. 28) and country round. Richard Reynolds always dressed in black, was a conspicuous figure in the days when Faringdon took its turn with Witney and Charlbury in celebrating a Monthly Meeting.
- XXIV.—FRIENDS' OLD MEETING HOUSE, MILVERTON (see page 2), at Quaking House Farm was demolished more than fifty years ago; the burial ground is still used. A Monthly Meeting was held there in a tent about eight years ago.
- XXV.—FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, MILVERTON (taken about the year 1780). In regular use sixty years ago. A meeting was held there about 1890. It is now a laundry. The entrance to it was through the passage, shewn in the picture No. 19, leading to a yard upon which the Meeting House looks, as does a cottage formerly used as a school.
- XXVI.—FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, CHELTENHAM, with cottages for the poor at the side. In 1775, "We rode to Cheltenham to be at the Quarterly Meeting; lodged with Elizabeth White, one of the four or five Friends in the town. Prevailed upon to attend the select meeting. About 150 persons attended the meeting for worship, most not of our Society, some Noblemen, Members of Parliament, Doctors, and Parsons: it being a place frequented for the mineral waters."—See *Dr. Pole's Journal*.

- XXVII.—FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, WORCESTER, in Sansome Place ; built in 1700 and considerably altered since. Dr. Pole in his Journal in 1775 says, "Set out about 5 a.m., went to James Fell's and breakfasted, and though I had never seen him before he kindly invited me to stay the day. (After the meeting.) Viewed the city and manufactories, and spent the evening with Timothy Bevington."
- XVIII.—FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, FARINGDON, BERKS. Still in the possession of Friends, but only occasionally used for their meetings.
- XXIX.—FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, HEREFORD, from an adjoining garden, 1823. The present Meeting House, built in 1826, is in a different part of the city.
- XXX.—FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, TEWKESBURY. Was sold some years ago to another religious body, and since used as a music hall. There is a graveyard in the rear of the building. Dr. Pole says, "Rode to Tewkesbury to their Monthly Meeting. The business was transacted with more quietude than was usual in that place. . . . Laboured in Love with the people. Supt and lodged at Isaac Butterfield's."—Extracts from *Dr. Pole's Journal* in 1777.
- XXXI.—FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, LEOMINSTER. The site was purchased for £16 in 1660. The Meeting House was built about 1680 and remained in use until 1833, when, having become decayed, it was pulled down, and another Meeting House erected. See *The Friend* (Lond.), vol. 34 (1894), page 613, where there appears a sketch of the old building by Henry Newman. The view given is from the burial ground ; the smaller building is for the Women's Monthly Meeting.
- XXXII.—FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM. "The original Meeting House, in Monmouth Street, became so dilapidated that, in 1703, a new Meeting House was erected in Bull Street, within a stone's throw of the old one. This building was subjected to several enlargements and alterations down to the period of its removal in 1857, in which year the present spacious Meeting House was opened. Behind the old Meeting House in Bull Street was a burial ground (that portion now in front of the present Meeting House), which, with that in Monmouth Street, was used for interments until the middle of the eighteenth century, when the latter ground was no longer used."—White. *Friends in Warwickshire*, 1894, pp. 83, 84.
- XXXIII.—FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, EXETER. Built 1692, renovated 1806, sold 1833. The old building was demolished by the purchaser in 1836. The site was re-purchased and a new Meeting House built in 1875-6. "A sketch of the meeting house . . . was made in 1824, by Thomas Pole, M.D. He was on a visit to Exeter for the benefit of his health, and occupied some of his leisure time in making this sketch."—Dymond. *Friends' Trust Property*, 1899.

XXXIV.—The five little landscapes are reproduced the exact size of the original drawings.

XXXV.—All these little drawings were done late in life. The border to the cottage drawing is coloured, but the whole album page of the other drawing is in water-colours.

XXXVI.—A view of the bridge called Nonpareil, which is built upon the four angles of two intersecting canals, between Calais and St. Omers, drawn in 1791.

Some of the Drawings have been kindly lent by George Nison Duck, Rachel E. Barrett, Constance Wedmore, Cecil Wedmore, and Frank H. Wedmore; and the index has been prepared by Norman Penney. I regret that Dr. Pole's drawings of his own house have not been accessible.—E.T.W.

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THE RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM AND MARY BARRETT, CHELTENHAM. 1784.



BROMLEY FARM, NEAR FRENCHAY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, in the occupation of Francis M. Fowler. 1823.



THE RESIDENCE OF RICHARD REYNOLDS, FARINGTON, BERKSHIRE, the smaller house is occupied by his Nephew, James Reynolds. 1823.

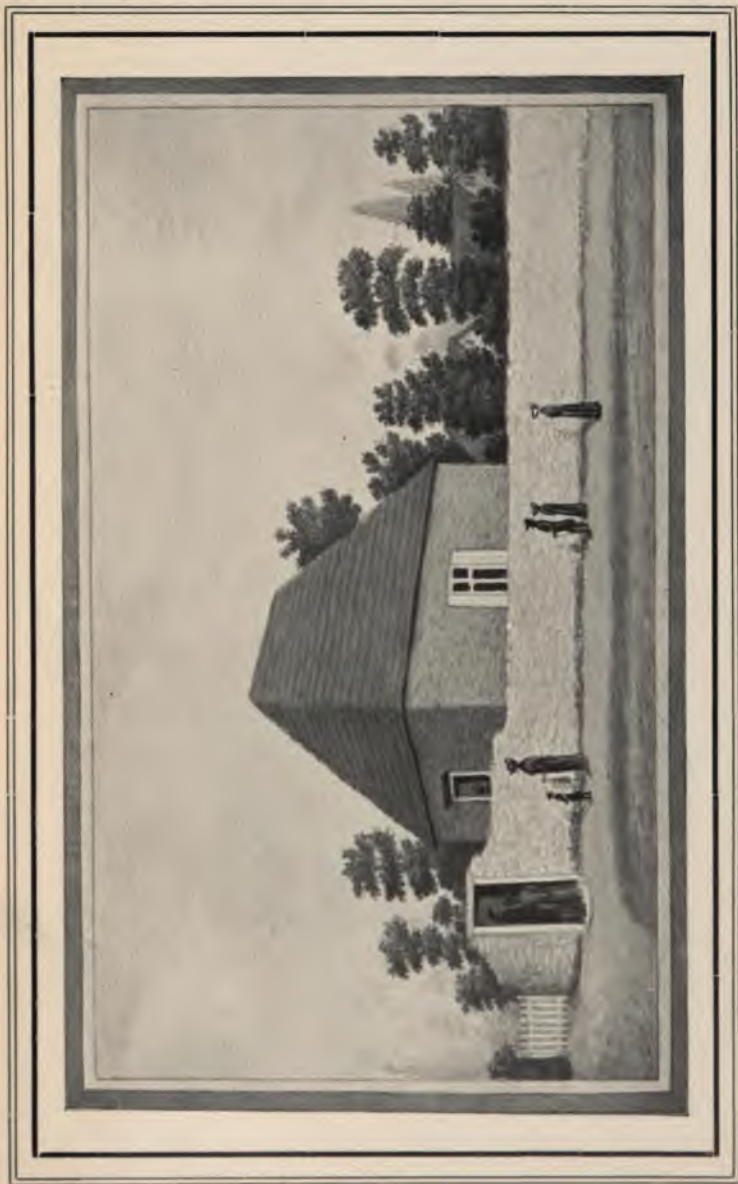




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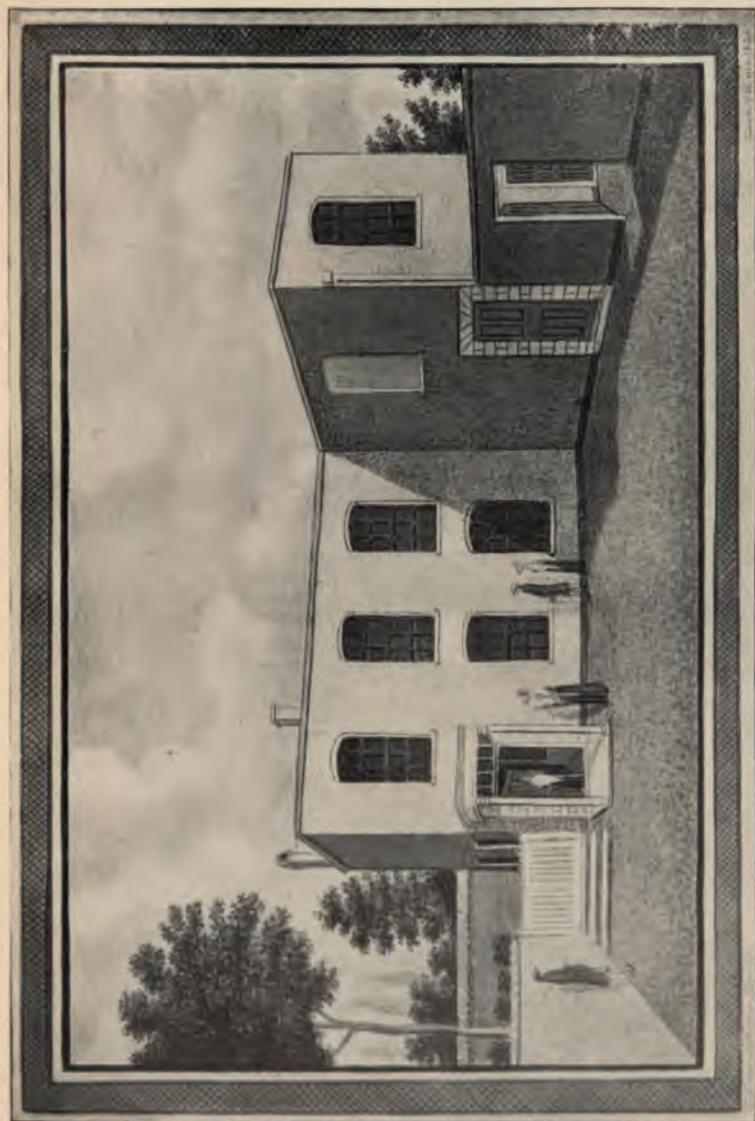
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FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSES, LEOMINSTER, HEREFORDSHIRE, from the Burial Ground.



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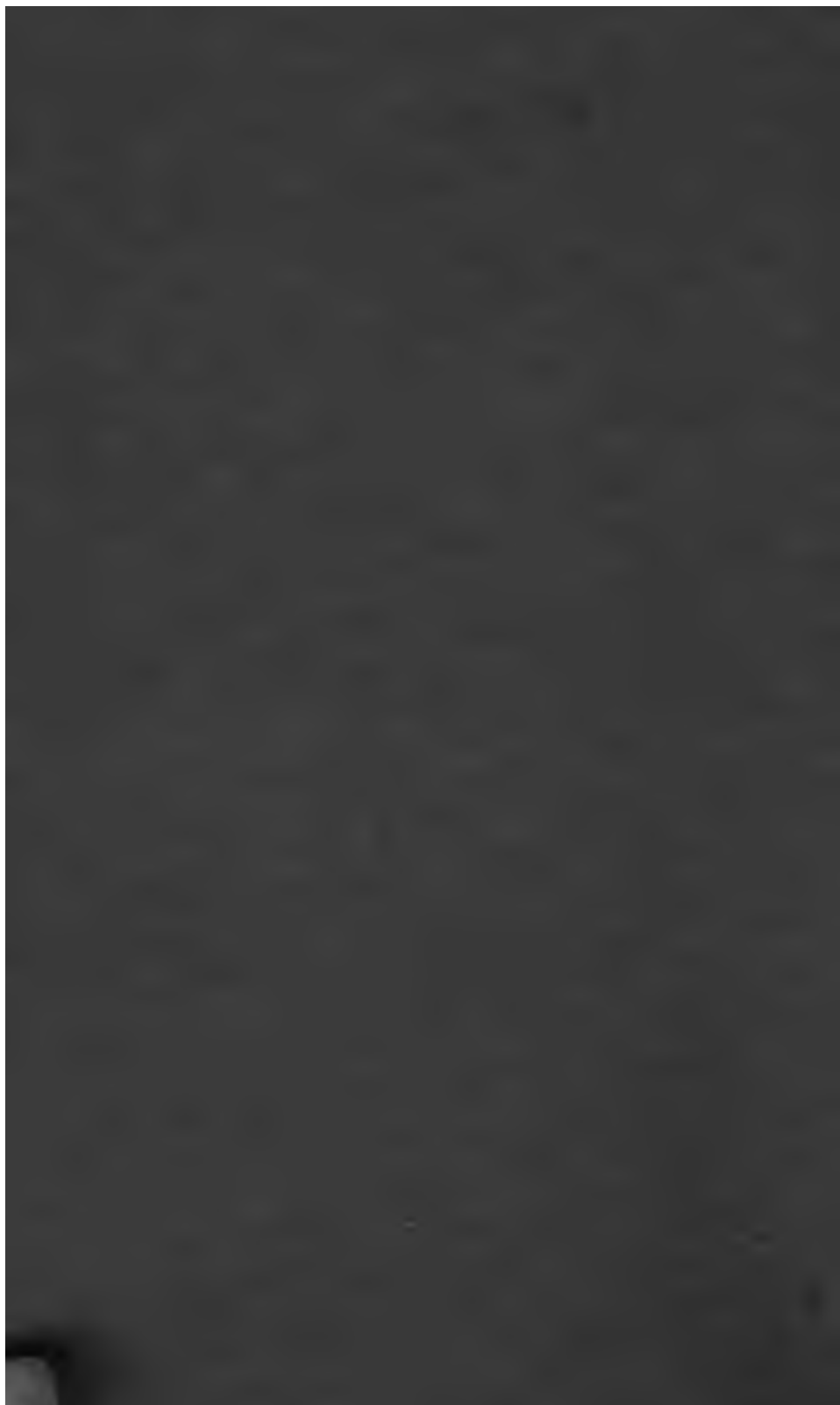
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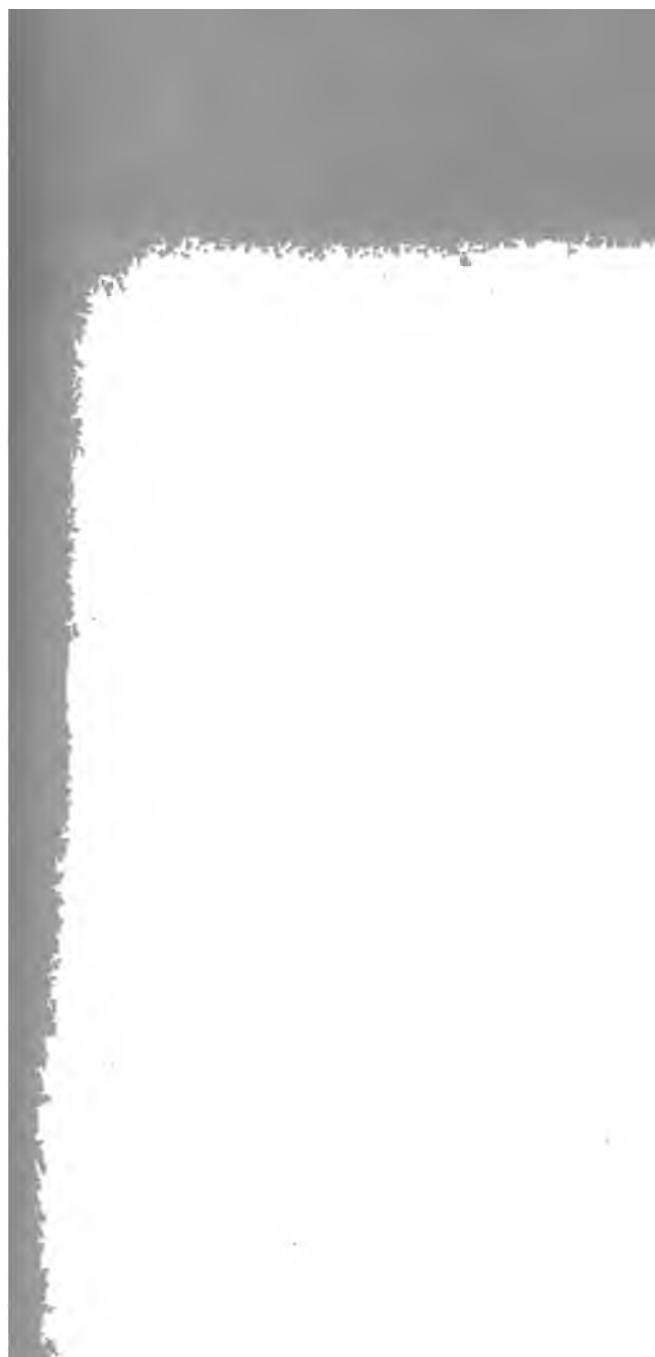
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